(c) Currently, Nangal Urea Expansion Project of NFL is under implementation at an estimated cost of Rs. 135.13 crores. It is likely to be completed by 11.5.2000.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Report of Disinvestment Commission on National Fertilizers Limited has a note of dissent recorded by Prof. D.M. Nanjundappa, part time Member. While disagreeing with the majority of Members of the Commission for disinvestment of 51% of equity of NFL, Prof. Nanjundappa favoured disinvestment upto 49%. He cited following reasons in support of it;

(i) NFL should be treated as a 'core' enterprise and should be retained and fully developed in the public sector.

(ii) NFL should have professional management and fully autonomy as recommended by the Disinvestment Commission in its earlier Report and its capital and technolgical base must be restructured. Resources required for this can be mobilised by disinvesting upto 49% the proceeds being remitted to the Disinvestment Fund. This can support the strengthening of NFL and Government both Central and State, should meet portion of extra budgeting needs of NFL.

(iii) Unlike some other Public Sector undertakings, NFL has both production and distribution linkages. At any point of time, there should be confidence among the Indian farmers that there is a giant fertilizer producer like NFL in the Public Sector in India to meet their fertilizer needs and the farmers should not fear any threat of manipulation generally attributed to the private sector.

The recommendations of Commission were considered by the Government and it has been decided to accept them and disinvest minimum of 51% of NFL equity to a strategic buyer with transfer of management control.

Production and consumption of Tetracycline

5035. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total production and consumption of Tetracycline and vitamins B^1 & B^2 in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a shortfall in the country due to the closing of certain units;

(c) whether Government are allowing imports of these items to augment the domestic supply; and

(d) if so, what is the total quantity of these items allowed for import during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The production of Tetracycline, Vitamin B^1 & B^2 in the country during the last three years is given below. Data in respect of consumption is not available.

(Unit: Tonnes)

Year	*Tetracycline*	*Vit. B^1*	*Vit.B^2*
97-98	5.58	N.A.	36.22
98-99	37.89	N.A.	41.29
99-2000	59.38	6.42	26.84

(b) There is a shortfall in the country.

(c) and (d) The government is allowing imports of Tetracycline, Vitamin B^1 & B^2. Imports of these drugs during the last three years, to the extent information is available, is given below:

(Unit Tonnes)

Year	*Tetracycline*	*Vit. B^1*	*Vit. B^2*
96-97	109.24	80.43	63.04
97-98	337.08	179.19	55.15
98-99	225.10	95.32	5082

N.A.: Not Applicable.

Closure of IDPL, Rishikesh

†5036. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IDPL Virbhadra, Rishikesh, Uttar Pradesh, is closed for the last many years;

†Original notice of Question was received in Hindi.